

CPYRGHT

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Front Page Edit Page Other Page

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## 'Warfare for the Brain'

Amid all the rejoicing over the repatriation of sick and wounded United Nations soldiers, the indoctrination question is asked over and over again.

Had the Communists tried to make Reds out of our people, and how did they do it, and how successful were they?

It is too early for complete answers, which will come out of the interrogations by intelligence officers.

It is also too early to know how, or whether, indoctrination also worked in reverse.

As these men of many Nations come back, some as from the land of the dead, we may wonder what effect they had on their Communist captors. There were men from all parts of the world, who had fought for an impersonal cause, an ideal, a principle. Aside from the South Koreans, they were far from their homes. They sought neither glory nor conquest.

In one returning contingent there were 35 Americans, a dozen Britishers, four Turks, a Canadian, a South African, a Greek, a Filipino. The American names told a story of origins—Kerkstra, Jones, Jankovitz, Mitchell, Herrera, White, Sacco, Wiseman, Anderson. There were white men and black, and brown.

If they had any imagination left, the Communist captors must have wondered about this world cross-section of men fighting to end aggression, joined by the intangibles of freedom and liberty.

If they talked with them, the Communists must have gained a little inkling of what life is like outside the Iron Curtain and the Bamboo Curtain.

From the early reports from Panmunjom, it seems possible that at least some of the indoctrination was in reverse. Our men came back laughing and joking, joyfully. Some told stories of hardship and brutality, particularly in the earlier days of their captivity. This could not have escaped the notice of the Chinese and North Koreans who brought them to the "Gate of Freedom."

These men, of course, made up a special group and the first to return, but those so far interviewed by correspondents have set a fine example.

It may be that the Communist "brain-washing" technique is applied only to a few, for propaganda purposes.

Allen W. Dulles, Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, only a few days ago told Princeton University alumni: "The Communists are now applying the brain-washing techniques

to American prisoners in Korea and it is not beyond the range of possibility that considerable numbers of our own boys there might be so indoctrinated as to be induced, temporarily at least, to renounce country and family."

Mr. Dulles cited the reputed broadcasts by a colonel and a major of the Marine Corps giving "in the greatest detail fictitious information regarding preparations for bacteriological warfare in Korea." He explained that the human mind, most delicate of all instruments, is "so susceptible to the impact of outside influences that it is proving a malleable tool in the hands of sinister men."

This takes the form of mass indoctrination, in which people shut away from outside ideas are "given only one choice and hear only one message," or the individual brain-washing applied to such men as Cardinal Mindszenty and a few others, one a missionary in China who gave testimony he now recognizes as completely false.

But mass indoctrination takes time and individual brain-washing is an exhausting process.

It may well be that our men, subjected for the most part only to mass indoctrination, and resisting it, have actually, if not consciously had a reverse effect on their captors.